

**First English Lutheran Church
Butler, Pennsylvania**

**Service of Holy Communion
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 5, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Victimae paschali laudes” - Charles Callahan
“The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe” - Waldemar Ahlen
“Earth, Earth, Awake!” - Sally Ann Morris

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed!

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The congregation may kneel, sit, or adopt another posture appropriate for confession.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the

name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

The congregation may stand.

GATHERING HYMN

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

Red Book #389

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

page 193 in the front of the red book

THIS IS THE FEAST

page 196 in the front of the red book

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation may sit.

THE WORD

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these

people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98 *(read responsively)*

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of
Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes
to judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING **1 John 5:1-6**

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the

one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Thine is the Glory”

st. 1

Red Book #376

GOSPEL John 15:9-17

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may sit.

SERMON

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

Red Book #804

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. By its power, teach us to love.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Protect early crops and wild-growing native plants and bring seasonable weather for growth.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Transform the hearts of those who desire hatred and violence, so that enemies may be turned into friends.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children are in need. We pray for those for whom we have been asked to pray:

For those who serve in law enforcement, and for all who put their lives on the line in their daily work.

For those who are sick, especially today we remember those suffering with cancer.

For college students as they end this academic year, and especially those who graduate and face new opportunities and much transition.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son commands us to abide in his love and to love others. We lift up to you those whom we find hard to love. Help us rest in your love when our efforts fall short.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us (*especially*). At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation may stand.

THE MEAL

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The congregation may sit.

OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

“Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared” - Kevin Hildebrand

The ushers present the offerings and gifts of bread and wine for communion.

CHOIR ANTHEM

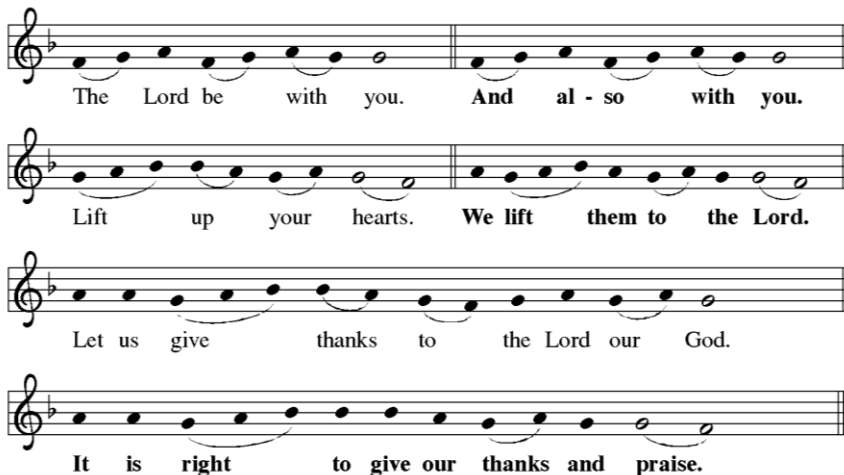
“Christians, to the Paschal Victim” - David McK. Williams

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

led by the assisting minister

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father ... For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again....

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

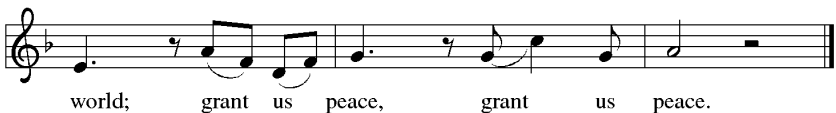
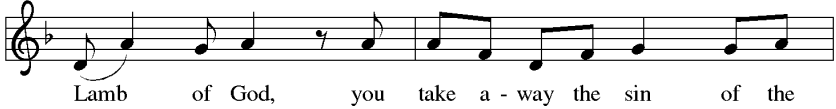
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God given for the people of God. Come to this feast of resurrection and new life.

LAMB OF GOD



The congregation may sit.

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENT

All are welcome to Holy Communion today. Lutherans believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. The ushers will invite you forward to receive. Gluten free wafers are available; please let the pastor know if you wish to receive them. If you are able to receive either bread or wine (but not both), please know that you still receive the full communion.

After all have received, the congregation may stand.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

“Jesus Loves Me!”

Red Book #595

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

led by the assisting minister

THE SENDING

BLESSING

May God who has brought us from death to life fill us with peace. Almighty God, Father, Son + Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Red Book #836

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“He Arose”

- Robert Lowry

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Maggie Babinka-Repic	Assisting Minister
Jim Cunningham	Communion Assistant
Jeanne Graff	Reader
Amelia O'Rourke	Crucifer
Alex Kamerer	Acolyte
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Harry Cunningham	Sr. Choir Director

Josh Kamerer	AV Assisting Minister
Gracie Love	PowerPoint Minister
Bill and Judy Vilcheck; Jake Stevens	Ushers
Amy and Jack Beiler	Counters
Roxanne Glagola	Altar Guild

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Ramona Schmidt in memory of loved ones.

All are welcome to join us for social hour following the worship service.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Mon., 5/6	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting (Social Hall)
Tues., 5/7	7:30 PM	Westminster Trumpet Ensemble
Thurs., 5/8	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sat., 5/11	9 AM – 1 PM	DAR (Social Hall)
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting (Downstairs)
Sun., 5/12	9:00 AM	Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	AA Meeting (Downstairs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you interested in making First English your church home? Pastor Kimberly will hold an information and get to know you session about First English following worship today. If you are interested in joining the congregation but can't make it that day, please contact her at pkfelc@zoominternet.net or 724-283-2378. Blessings!

The Westminster College trumpet ensemble will perform at First English on Tuesday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 and supports their trip to the International Trumpet Guild Conference in California.

Pastor Dollhopf will be celebrating his 50th anniversary of ordination this year and will be recognized at the synod assembly in June. The synod will honor Pr. Dollhopf with a \$500 gift to the seminary toward a new scholarship which will in time benefit seminarians entering public ministry. Members of First English who wish to send congratulatory greetings and/or scholarship contributions may direct them to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod; 1014 Perry Highway, Suite 200; Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Please note in the memo line "50th Anniversary Scholarship Fund."

Members of the congregation are reminded that they need to commune once a year to remain voting members. If you are communing today, please fill out a communion card located in the pew racks. Thank you!

PRAYERS

Family of Dr. Keith Parrish; family of Tony Valvano; Leslie Easler; Jason Rahner; family of Jason Russell; Elaine Cavanaugh; Laine Repic; Rappaport family; Cory and Emi; Bill Brown; family of Tom Zarnick; Randy Kosior; Carolyn Shanor; Karen Cranmer; Carol Sawford; family of Leanne Bushaw; Abbie; C. J. Williams; Evan; Cheryl Stirling; Kenneth Mathias; Lucas Barber; Charlie and Lori; Jan Nieto; Gavin; family of David Riggs; family of Mary Ann Rudzki; Jeff Boyd; Betty Thomas; Owen; family of Rose “Roe” Goda; family of Mairead Magee; Chris and Jodie; Kathy Rhodes, her husband Ken, and family; Tonnie van Driel; family of Frank Franzen; Jayden; Myrna Hamil; Linda; Kathy Schweikart Spingola and Charles Spingola; Marj Rogner; Pam Reeder; Greg Reeder; Carol Cunningham; family of Zema Schaney; Frank Miller; family of Tony Sequite; Mackenzie Perkins; Linda Mathias; Gus Keiser; Will; Carol Chamberlain; Carol Johnson; Mason Martin; family of Janet Warner; Eileen Herbeck; family of Linda Hibbeler; Thelma Hassler; continued healing for Graham Cannon; Aryl Bashline; Holly Schubert; Tad Sellers; Pam Patterson; Tom Olson

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Matthias added to the apostles

Psalm 1

The LORD knows the way of the righteous. (*Ps. 1:6*)

1 John 5:9-13

Life in the Son of God

John 17:6-19

Christ’s prayer for his disciples

ZOOM INFO

To join via telephone, dial: +1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 956 305 5281

Password: 408299

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